



MEDIA RELEASE

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Family Justice Center hosts art and poetry exhibition

(Minneapolis)—The Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County, the Family Housing Fund and Forecast Public Artworks hosted the “Home Sweet Home Again: An Exhibition of Art and Poetry” reception on May 3, 2007 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Family Justice Center, 110 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis.

This event demonstrates one of the ways Family Court strives to minimize the impact family change has on children.

“With so many children being raised by divorced or never married parents, many parents need court assistance to resolve parenting issues, and we want to be readily available to help them before children are affected adversely.” said Family Court Presiding Judge Bruce Peterson.

“Yet courts have a reputation for punishment and coercion and many people want to avoid them. Displaying art featuring families, parents and children is a way to make the Family Justice Center a more warm and hospitable place and to convey the message that we are here to help and support families. It is also a way to focus attention both of parents and court personnel on the reason we are all here – to benefit children.” he added.

The work by more than 50 local artists and poets was created to promote awareness of affordable housing and other needs of children and families in Hennepin County.

The traveling exhibit display at the Family Justice Center provides a family-friendly environment for parties seeking intervention to solve their issues. Services available at this location include Family Court, Self Help Center, Hennepin County Attorney Child Support Unit, Hennepin County Child Support, and Hennepin County Family Court Services (a division of Community Corrections).

A brief program included remarks by Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Judge Bruce Peterson.

About the Fourth Judicial District

The State of Minnesota’s Fourth Judicial District serves only Hennepin County and is the state’s largest trial court with more than 750,000 cases received annually. Family Court handles cases where parties seek court intervention to solve their family issues. Family Court matters include divorce, paternity, domestic abuse, child custody, support and visitation. The mission of the Fourth Judicial District is to provide a system of Justice that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies. For more information, please visit our website at www.mncourts.gov/district/4/.